

To: Distribution

From: Bob Hunnicutt, Tower Coordinator, Columbia Telecommunications

A meeting of the Telecommunications Transmission Facility Coordinating Group (TTF CG) was held on January 14, 2004. The following people were in attendance:

**MEMBERS**

Jane Lawton OCA (240) 777-3724  
Carlton Gilbert M-NCPPC (301) 495-7693  
Pat Hanehan MCPS (301) 279-3609  
Steve Batterden DPW&T (240) 777-6063

**STAFF**

Margie Williams OCA (240) 777-3762  
Robert Hunnicutt CTC (410) 964-5700  
Dave Randolph CTC (410) 964-5700

**OTHER ATTENDEES**

Steven Weber T-Mobile  
Mike Budde T-Mobile  
Jackie McCarthy T-Mobile

**Discussion Item – Meeting Minutes:** Pat Hanehan moved the minutes be approved as written. Carlton Gilbert seconded the motion and the minutes were unanimously approved.

**Action Item:** T-Mobile application to attach three 72" antennas to the top of an existing cupola at the Rock Creek Village Shopping Center located at 5504 Norbeck Road in Rockville (Application #200401-01).

Bob Hunnicutt summarized the application, noting that T-Mobile proposes to place antennas on top of a cupola on one end of the building. He stated that based on the site plan, it appears that the building was only 17' high and does not meet the 30' minimum height requirement for antenna attachment for the C-1 zone. He explained that in previous applications for attachment on low buildings, the cupola was not considered in determining the building height. He stated that if the Department of Permitting Services does not consider the height of the cupola in determining building height, because the building is only 17' high, it would require a Special Exception. He stated that he had left a message for Dave Niblock on this matter prior to preparing the recommendation, but had not yet received a reply. He said he had hoped to resolve this issue at the meeting today, but since Mr. Niblock is not available, the Tower Coordinator's recommendation would be conditioned upon the carrier obtaining a Special Exception, or the Department of Permitting Services determination that the building height meets the minimum height requirement for a by-right attachment.

Steve Weber stated that T-Mobile considered the cupola height in determining the average height of the building. He noted that the antennas would be on top of the cupola and concealed behind RF transparent material – the same material as the "flagpole" design used for monopoles.

Mr. Hunnicutt replied that there is a provision in the code for averaging height if there were varying elevations for a site, but he did not see a code provision that allowed for the cupola height to be included in calculating the average. He added that other than the height issue, he believed this was a creative use of an existing structure and the carrier had made a good effort to minimize the appearance of the antennas.

Jane Lawton said that she agreed that the siting is creative and innovative. She added that she would like to see this application set a standard for these kinds of co-locations.

Pat Hanehan asked if this was the same shopping center where Nextel recently proposed a monopole

disguised as a flagpole, and if so, did Nextel still plan on pursuing that monopole. Mr. Hunnicutt replied that it was the same shopping center and Nextel had proposed placing the monopole on the other side of the building behind the Giant. He said that the last he heard from Rockville staff, Nextel was pursuing attaching its antennas to a monopole at Rockville's Red Gate Golf Course in lieu of constructing a monopole at the Giant.

Mr. Hanehan also asked if there were co-location opportunities for other carriers at this site. Mike Budde replied there would not be room on top of the cupola T-Mobile was using, but that there were other cupolas on the buildings.

Mr. Hunnicutt suggested that if the Department of Permitting Services considered the height of all buildings in the shopping center, including the Giant store which appeared to be well above 30', it might meet the height criteria if averaging was necessary.

Jane Lawton noted that there was already a flagpole in front of the buildings and asked if that could be used instead of the cupola. Mr. Weber replied that it might be a possibility if the landlord would allow it and there was enough ground space for the equipment shelters. He noted, however, that option would require a Special Exception and may make the site too costly.

**Motion:** Steve Batterden moved the application be recommended conditioned upon a Department of Permitting Services determination that the building height meets the minimum requirements for by-right attachment. Pat Hanehan seconded the motion and it was unanimously recommended.

**Discussion Item – AM Radio Broadcast Towers:** Jane Lawton advised the Group that she had recently received inquiries from the public, the press, the County Council, the Park and Planning Commission, and the State Delegates about two pending AM radio towers. One inquiry concerned a new set of seven towers for a new radio station in the Damascus area, and another inquiry involved a set of five towers on Watkins Mill Road, where the station owner is increasing the power from 1,000 watts to 50,000 watts and changing out the existing guyed lattice towers for new ones of the same height. She stated that the Damascus tower would be coming before the TTF CG for review but she was not sure when this would occur. She stated it was unclear whether the Watkins Mill site would require TTF CG review, but she wanted to bring both sites to the Group's attention. She added that the Park and Planning Commission might hold a hearing for the changes at the Watkins Mill site.

Ms. Lawton also reported that Bill Paris, an attorney representing another AM station owner, notified her that his client was interested in replacing an existing tower with a new tower at Cabin John Park, which is on property owned by the M-NCPPC.

**Discussion Item – Towers along the Inter-County Connector:**

Ms. Lawton informed the Group that she had been asked by Kathy Reilly of M-NCPPC to participate in discussions with the Planning Commission staff about the possibility of planning for new tower facilities along the rights-of-way for the Inter-County Connector (ICC). She said that other jurisdictions, such as Loudoun, had developed a planning process along new roads. Ms. Lawton asked the T-Mobile representatives if they would be interested in placing antennas along the ICC or if T-Mobile's coverage was adequate in those areas. Mr. Weber said that T-Mobile definitely would be interested in a plan to place facilities along the ICC, and he thought the other carriers would be interested as well.

Ms. Lawton asked the Group if they would be interested in participating with the Planning Commission staff. They all agreed that they would. She said that she would notify Ms. Reilly.

**Discussion Item – Other New Antenna Sites:** Ms. Lawton asked the T-Mobile representatives if they expected to have more applications in the near future. Mr. Weber replied that they did.

Mr. Hunnicutt added that he had been contacted by another carrier inquiring about a possible new monopole in the area of the Bretton Woods Country Club to serve the River Road area. He stated he would try to get the carriers together to consider a joint venture for that area. He mentioned that he had also heard that there might be a request for a State of Maryland tower in the River Road/Persimmon Tree Road area.

**The next meeting of the TTFCG is scheduled for Wednesday, February 18, 2004 at 2:00 p.m. in the 2nd floor conference room #225 of the COB.**